

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 090930Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TP RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3173

INFO AMCONSUL HAMILTON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9013

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JA

SUBJECT: TANAKA VISIT TO U.S.?

SUMMARY: FONOFF HAS DENIED INSPIRING PRESS SPECULATION OVER POSSIBILITY THAT TANAKA MIGHT STOP IN UNITED STATES DURING COURSE OF SEPTEMBER WESTERN HEMISPHERE TOUR. AT SAME TIME THEY HAVE GIVEN U.S. ADVANCE NOTICE OF SCHEDULE FOR CARIBBEAN-CANADIAN LEGS OF TANAKA SCHEDULE AND HAVE TOLD US THEY WILL NOT MAKE THIS PUBLIC UNTIL NEXT WEEK. WHILE THIS COULD BE AN INDIRECT BID FOR TANAKA STOP-OFF, WE ARE INCLINED THINK THAT IF SUCH A SIGNAL WERE INTENDED IT WOULD BE PASSED TO USG IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 9 EMBOFF QUERIED NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIV CHIEF MATSUURA ABOUT JULY 5 TOKYO SHIMBUN ARTICLE RAISING POSSIBILITY OF US-JAPAN SUMMIT IN COURSE OF TANAKA WESTERN HEMISPHERE TOUR IN SEPTEMBER. MATSUURA REPLIED THAT ARTICLE WAS PURE SPECULATION, BUT MAY HAVE BEEN BASED IN PART ON DISTORTION OF RECENT PRESS BACKGROUNDER BY VICE FONMIN TOGO. IN REPLY TO QUESTION AT BACKGROUNDER TOGO REPORTEDLY SAID HE FAVORED SUMMIT MEETINGS
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BETWEEN JAPANESE AND US LEADERS IN PRINCIPLE

(POSSIBLY AN INDIRECT ALLUSION TO QTE INSTITUTIONALIZATION UNQTE OF US-USSR SUMMITRY, ABOUT WHICH LOCAL PRESS IS TALKING), BUT ADDED THAT THERE WERE NO CONCRETE PLANS IN THE MAKING FOR SUCH A MEETING. MATSUURA COMMENTED THAT REPORTERS BASED THEIR STORY ON THE FIRST PART OF TOGO'S STATEMENT, IGNORING THE QUALIFIER.

2. MATSUURA COMMENTED THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD INFORMED DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL OF THE TANAKA SCHEDULE AFTER MEXICO AND BRAZIL (BERMUDA 9/21-23; OTTAWA 9/23-25, TORONTO-VANCOUVER 9/25; DEPART FOR TOKYO 9/26), AND THAT THE SCHEDULE WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC UNTIL SOMETIME NEXT WEEK. THE FONOFF, MATSUURA EXPLAINED, PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER CANADIAN ELECTIONS BEFORE ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF VISIT.

3. COMMENT: THE CANADIANS, WHO HAVE EXPRESSED TO US THE HOPE THAT ANY U.S. STOP BY TANAKA BE ARRANGED TO AVOID OVERSHADOWING HIS CANADA VISIT, HAVE GOTTEN FUZZY SIGNALS FROM THE FONOFF ON THIS MATTER. CANADIAN DCM TOLD US HE ASKED NORTH AMERICAN BUREAU DEPUTY DIRGEN FUKADA JULY 8 WHETHER TANAKA WAS PLANNING A U.S. STOP AND RECEIVED AN EVASIVE ANSWER, LEAVING CANADIANS WITH IMPRESSION TANAKA MIGHT WELCOME MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON DURING SEPTEMBER 21-22 WEEKEND, PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR GOLF IN BERMUDA. WHILE MATSUURA'S HANDLING OF OUR QUERY MIGHT BE READ SAME WAY, EMBASSY IS OF OPINION THAT IF GOJ WISHED GIVE US SUCH A SIGNAL THEY WOULD DO SO IN WASHINGTON. CULBERT

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